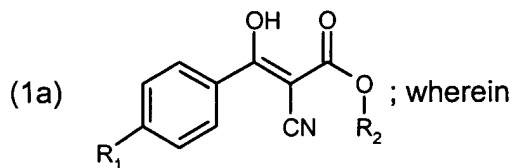
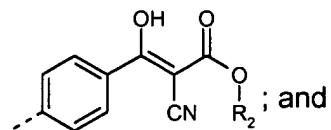


In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) Compounds of formula



R_1 is C_6 - C_{10} aryl; or a ~~radical~~ radical group of formula (1a₁)



R_2 is hydrogen; or C_1 - C_{20} alkyl.

2. (original) Compounds of formula (1a) according to claim 1, wherein

R_1 is C_6 - C_{10} aryl.

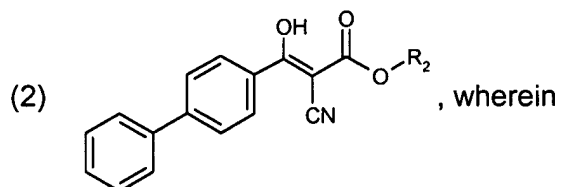
3. (previously presented) Compounds according to claim 1, wherein

R_1 is phenyl.

4. (previously presented) Compounds according to claim 1, wherein

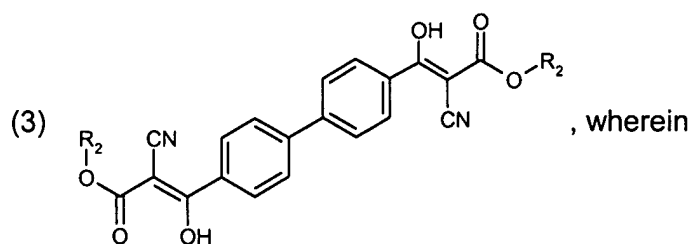
R_2 is C_1 - C_{20} alkyl.

5. (previously presented) Compounds according to claim 1, which correspond to formula



R_2 is C_1 - C_{20} alkyl.

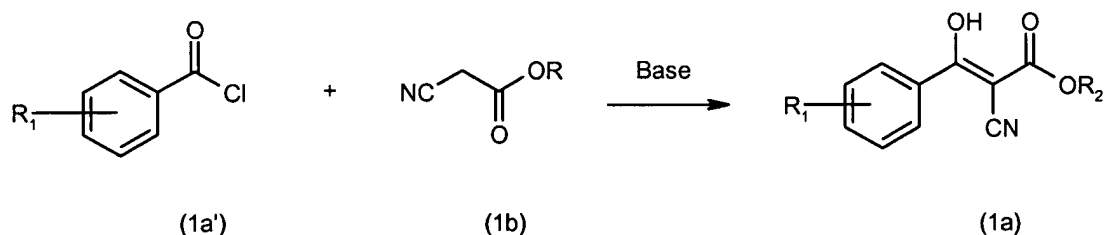
6. (previously presented) Compounds according to claim 1, which correspond to formula



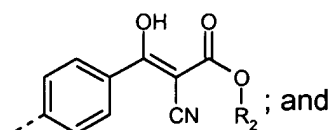
R_2 is C_1 - C_{20} alkyl.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) Process for the preparation of the compounds of formula (1a) according to claim 1, which comprises condensing the cyanoacetate of formula (1b) with the carbon acid chloride of formula (1a') to the compound of formula (1a) according to the following reaction scheme:

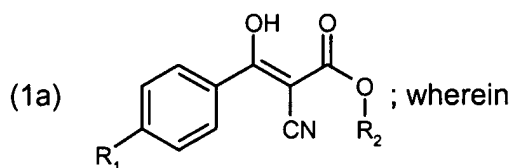


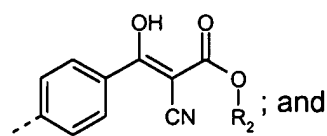
wherein

R_1 is C_6 - C_{10} aryl; or a ~~radical~~ group of formula (1a₁)  ; and

R_2 is hydrogen; or C_1 - C_{20} alkyl.

9. (withdrawn) A method for the antimicrobial treatment of surfaces, which comprises treating said surfaces with an antimicrobially effective amount of a compound of formula



R_1 is C_6 - C_{10} aryl; or a radical of formula (1a₁)  ; and

R_2 is hydrogen; or C_1 - C_{20} alkyl.

10. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 9 for the antimicrobial treatment, deodorisation and disinfection of the skin, mucosa or hair, which comprises treating said skin, mucosa or hair with an antimicrobially effective amount of a compound of formulae (1a).

11. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 9, which comprises the prevention of the adhesion of bacteria on surfaces and the further forming of biofilms and detaching the biofilm and/or the inhibition of the growth of biofilm-forming microorganisms in a biological matrix or killing them.

12. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 9, wherein textile fibre materials are treated.

13. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 9, wherein the compound of formula (1a) is applied as a preservative.

14. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 9, wherein the compound of formula (1a), is incorporated into washing and cleaning formulations.

15. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 9, wherein the compound of formula (1a), which comprises imparting antimicrobial properties to, and preserving, plastics, paper, nonwovens, wood or leather.

16. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 9, wherein the compounds of formula (1a), which comprises imparting antimicrobial properties to, and preserving technical products.

17. (cancelled)

18. (previously presented) A personal care preparation comprising from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formula (1a) according to claim 1, and cosmetically tolerable adjuvants.

19. (previously presented) An oral composition comprising from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formula (1a) according to claim 1, and orally tolerable adjuvants.